

Public Library There's no greater feeling than falling deeply in love... with a book!

The power of reading has been at the heart of The New York Public Library since our founding. So, for our 125th anniversary, our expert librarians crafted this list of 125 titles—published in the last 125 years and crossing an array of genres and formats that inspire a lifelong love of reading.

Dive into this list of books we love and discover the magic of a great story.

Learn more: nypl.org/125

**#LOVEREADING** 

## LITERARY FICTION

- The Adventures of Augie March Saul Bellow, 1953
- The Bonfire of the Vanities Tom Wolfe, 1987
- Brooklyn Colm Tóibín, 2009
- Cloud Atlas David Mitchell 2004
- ☐ The Heart Is a **Lonely Hunter** Carson McCullers, 1940
- Housekeeping Marilynne Robinson, 1980
- The House of Mirth Edith Wharton, 1905
- Life After Life Kate Atkinson, 2013
- Lolita Vladimir Nabokov, 1955

- Money: A Suicide Note Martin Amis, 1984
- Motherless Brooklyn Jonathan Lethem, 1999
- On the Road lack Kerouac, 1957
- Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit Jeanette Winterson, 1985
- Portnoy's Complaint Philip Roth, 1969
- The Round House Louise Erdrich 2012

- The Shipping News A Visit from Annie Proulx, 1993
- Stone Butch Blues Leslie Feinberg, 1993
- The Virgin Suicides Jeffrey Eugenides, 1993

the Goon Squad Jennifer Egan, 2010 White Noise Don DeLillo, 1985

"ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE IS THE SUPERB, THE SUPREME ACT OF TRULY GREAT CIVILIZATIONS. OF ALL THE INSTITUTIONS THAT PURPORT TO DO THIS, FREE LIBRARIES STAND VIRTUALLY ALONE IN ACCOMPLISHING THIS MISSION."

—Toni Morrison

### HISTORICAL FICTION

- The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clav Michael Chabon, 2000
- lan McEwan 2001
- Beloved Toni Morrison, 1987
- The English Patient Michael Ondaatje, 1992
- Julian Gore Vidal, 1964

- The Quiet American Graham Greene, 1955
- Rules of Civility Amor Towles, 2011
- Train Dreams Denis Johnson, 2011
- The Underground Railroad Colson Whitehead 2016
- Wolf Hall Hilary Mantel, 2009

"LIBRARIES RAISED ME... I COULDN'T GO TO COLLEGE, SO I WENT TO THE LIBRARY THREE DAYS A WEEK FOR 10 YEARS."

-Ray Bradbury 

#### SUSPENSE

- Along Came a Spider The Hound of James Patterson, 1993
- And Then There Were None Agatha Christie, 1939
  - The Big Sleep Raymond Chandler, 1939
  - Devil in a Blue Dress Walter Mosley, 1990

Fun Home: A

Maus: A

**Family Tragicomic** 

Alison Bechdel, 2006

Survivor's Tale

Art Spiegelman, 1986

GRAPHIC MOVELS

- the Baskervilles Arthur Conan Doyle, 1902
- Rebecca Daphne du Maurier, 1938
- The Talented Mr. Ripley Patricia Highsmith, 1955

Persepolis: The Story

Marjane Satrapi, 2003

of a Childhood

Alan Moore and

Dave Gibbons, 1987

Watchmen

#I NVFRFANING

- Midnight's Children Salman Rushdie, 1981
- Mrs. Dalloway
- My Brilliant Friend Elena Ferrante, 2012
- One Hundred Years of Solitude
- Master's Son

#### AROUND THE WORLD

- Giovanni's Room James Baldwin, 1956
- The God of **Small Things** Arundhati Rov. 1997
- A House for Mr. Biswas The Stranger V.S. Naipaul, 1961
- ☐ The Kite Runner Khaled Hosseini, 2003
- Virginia Woolf, 1925
- Gabriel García Márquez, 1970
- ☐ The Orphan Adam Johnson, 2012

- Out Stealing Horses
- The Remains of the Day Kazuo Ishiguro, 1989

Per Petterson, 2005

- Albert Camus, 1946
- Things Fall Apart Chinua Achebe, 1958
- The Unbearable **Lightness of Being** Milan Kundera, 1984
- White Teeth Zadie Smith, 2000
- ☐ The Wind-Up **Bird Chronicle** Haruki Murakami, 1997

#### **SHORT STORIES**

- A Good Man Is Hard to The Stories of **Find and Other Stories** Flannery O'Connor, 1955
- Interpreter of Maladies Jhumpa Lahiri, 1999
- Olive Kitteridge Elizabeth Strout, 2008
- □ Runaway Alice Munro, 2004
- John Cheever John Cheever, 1978
- Tenth of December George Saunders, 2013
- ☐ What We Talk About When We Talk About Love Raymond Carver, 1981

"THE LIBRARY HELPS YOU TO SEE, NOT ONLY THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE, BUT THAT YOU'RE NOT REALLY ANY DIFFERENT FROM EVERYONE ELSE."

-Maya Angelou 

#### MODERN CLASSICS 1984 The Great Gatsby George Orwell, 1949 F. Scott Fitzgerald, 1925 Invisible Man All Quiet on the Ralph Ellison, 1952 Western Front Erich Maria Remarque, 1929 Native Son Brideshead Revisited Richard Wright, 1940 Evelyn Waugh, 1945 The Sun Also Rises Catch-22 Ernest Hemingway, 1926 Joseph Heller, 1961 Their Eyes Were The Catcher in the Rye Watching God J.D. Salinger, 1951 Zora Neale Hurston, 1937 The Color Purple To Kill a Mockingbird Alice Walker, 1982 Harper Lee, 1960 The Grapes of Wrath John Steinbeck, 1939 'A BOOK IS A DREAM YOU HOLD IN YOUR HAND." -Neil Gaiman MO The City and Tha Erik ☐ Got Nev Edw Mike □ In C Acc

BIOGRAPHY &	MEMOIR			
Alexander Hamilton Ron Chernow, 2004	The Liars' Club Mary Karr, 1995			
The Argonauts Maggie Nelson, 2015	The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts Maxine Hong Kingston, 1976			
Cleopatra: A Life Stacy Schiff, 2010				
A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius Dave Eggers, 2000				
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings Maya Angelou, 1969	125 YEARS			
ROMANCE				
An Extraordinary Union	Naked in Death J.D. Robb, 1995			
Alyssa Cole, 2017  Indigo Beverly Jenkins, 1996	Slave to Sensation Nalini Singh, 2006			

## American Gods The Color of Magic Dune Fahrenheit 451 ☐ The Fellowship The Fifth Season A Game of Thrones The Handmaid's Tale Harry Potter and

Neil Gaiman, 2001

Terry Pratchett, 1983

Frank Herbert, 1965

Ray Bradbury, 1953

of the Ring

J.R.R. Tolkien, 1954

N.K. Jemisin, 2015

George R.R. Martin, 1996

Margaret Atwood, 1985

the Sorcerer's Stone

J.K. Rowling, 1997

#### SCI-FI, FANTASY & HORROR The Haunting of Hill House Shirley Jackson, 1959 The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Douglas Adams, 1979 The Left Hand of Darkness Ursula K. Le Guin, 1969 Parable of the Sower Octavia E. Butler, 1993 The Shining Stephen King, 1977 The Three-Body

American Primitive Howl and Other Mary Oliver, 1983 Poems Allen Ginsberg, 1956 Sylvia Plath, 1965 Life on Mars Tracy K. Smith, 2011 Autobiography of Red: A Novel in Verse Self-Portrait in Anne Carson, 1998 a Convex Mirror John Ashbery, 1975 American Lyric Claudia Rankine, 2014 "THE TRUE REASON I READ IS TO FEEL LESS ALONE, TO MAKE A CONNECTION WITH A CONSCIOUSNESS OTHER THAN MY OWN." —Zadie Smith

The Collected Poems

Langston Hughes, 1994

of Langston Hughes

**POETRY** 

Ariel

Citizen: An

The Age of Anxiety:

W.H. Auden, 1947

A Baroque Eclogue

**#LOVEREADING** 

Problem

The Turn of

the Screw

Henry James, 1898

Cixin Liu, 2014

NONFICTION			NOTES:
W.	The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America	Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game Michael Lewis, 2003	
	Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898 Edwin G. Burrows and	Pilgrim at Tinker Creek Annie Dillard, 1974	
	Mike Wallace, 1998	Silent Spring Rachel Carson, 1962	
W	Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences	Slouching Towards Bethlehem Joan Didion, 1968	
	Into Thin Air: A Personal Account	Up in the Old Hotel and Other Stories Joseph Mitchell, 1992	
	of the Mt. Everest Disaster Jon Krakauer, 1997	The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of	
Same of the same o	Me Talk Pretty One Day David Sedaris, 2000	America's Great Migration Isabel Wilkerson, 2010	
	Midnight in the Garden of Good	isasei Wiikeisoli, 2010	125
	and Evil John Berendt, 1994		#LOVEREADING YEARS
			The state of the s

# ABOUT THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Since our founding in 1895, The New York Public Library has been dedicated to the mission of providing free and open access to knowledge and opportunity for all.

With 92 locations, the Library is the nation's largest public library system. Our 125th anniversary in 2020 is a moment to celebrate the enduring power of libraries and reaffirm our values of trust, respect, and free access to information.

Learn more: nypl.org/125



